revised Turn Around Plan has been placed before the BIFR for their approval. Pending approval of the modernisation/rehabilitation plan by the BIFR, Government are meeting the shortfall faced by NTC in meeting the requirements of its wages/salaries.

Installation of Coin-Operated PCOs in Andhra Pradesh

48. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Telecom proposes to install and operate latest coin-operated PCOs in the State;

(b) if so, by when this programme is likely to be operational;

(c) whether any effort has been made to provide coin-operated PCO machines which would return coins for incomplete calls:

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of such machines proposed to be installed in Andhra Pradesh in 1996-97.

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (e) Sir, the existing coin operated PCOs working in Andhra Pradesh are of post payment type in which the coins are to be inserted after the called party answers.

A new coin operated PCO instrument has been development which is of pre-payment type in which coins are to be put before dialling and has the facility to refund the coins in case of incomplete calls.

In Andhra Pradesh, new type of coin operated PCOs will be provided after their receipt from Telecom Stores Organisation. This will be done in a phased manner.

Action on Recommendations of Vohra Committee Report

49. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) in the context of the report of the Vohra Committee, whether Government intend to enquire into the alleged role played by Persons as liaison between politicians and criminals;

(b) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation has been asked to pursue the search for such links; and

(c) whether Government propose to set up special tribunals for conducting cases arising out of such investigations and whether such tribunals would be permitted to work in a fully transparent manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) Various Investigating and Enforcement Agencies of the Government have been taking action on cases where such liaison has come to light. In a number of such cases proceedings/prosecutions have been initiated from time to time against different persons. These agencies continue ot take action in such cases under the laws of the country as contemplated.

(c) No, Sir. in view of (a) & (b) above.

वस्त्र उद्योग संबंधी अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सम्मेलन

50. **श्री चीमनभाई हरीभाई शुक्ला:** क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या भारतीय उद्योग परिसंघ ने नवंबर, 1995 के दौरान भारत में किसी वस्त्र उद्योग संबंधी अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सम्मेलन का आयोजन किया था;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उस सम्मेलन में जिन मुख्य मुद्दों पर विचार किया गया उनका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) इस पर सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया क्या है?

वस्त्र मंत्री (श्री आर.एल. जालप्पा): (क) जी हां।

(ख) और (ग) सम्मेलन में वस्त्र नीति वस्त्र उद्योग की मौजूदा स्थिति, विश्वव्यापीकरण की चुनौतियों गाट उपरान्त परिदृश्य उद्योग को विशेष कर कपास जैसे कच्चे माल की उपलब्धता, कपास के निर्यात तथा इस संबंध में सरकार की नीतियों से संबंधित मुद्दों पर विचार विमर्श हुआ। मौजूदा वस्त्र नीति में वस्त्र उद्योग के विभिन्न क्षेत्रों को व्यापक रूप से शामिल किया गया है। सरकार भी वस्त्र क्षेत्र की अवस्था का निरंतर मानिटर करती है जिसका उद्देश्य यह सुनिश्चित करना है कि किसी भी तरह विकास अवरुद्ध न हो तथा जब कभी भी वस्त्र उद्योग के क्षेत्र में ऐसी स्थिति उत्पन्न हो जाती है जिसकी ओर ध्यान देना

आवश्यक होता है तो उस समय नीति परख हस्तक्षेप करके उपयुक्त उपाय किए जाते हैं।

US proposal for removal of Tariff regulation from Global Information Teconology Industry

51. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.S. has sought to introduce an interim proposal for procurement and a time-frame for removal of all tariff regulation in items used in the global information technology industry, before the meeting of Balance of Payment Committee in January, 1997; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The U.S. has made a proposal for an agreement on information technology industry to reduce tariff on information technology related goods by the year 2000. The Government is examining the merits of the proposal.

Indo-Bangladesh Bilateral Relations

52. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps have been taken by Government recently to improve Indo-Bangladesh bilateral relations;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken in that direction; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) to (c) The Government is committed to the maintenance of friendly and cooperative relations with Bangladesh. For this purpose, soon after the installation of new Government in Bangladesh the Foreign Secretary visited Dhaka in July 1996 to consider steps to move forward on all issues in the bilateral relations. A second round of discussions was held during the visit of Bangladesh Foreign Secretary to India from August 6—9, 1996. The discussions were further carried on during External Affairs Minister's visit to Dhaka in September 1996, during Bangladesh Water Resources Minister's visit to India in October 1996, and during Bangladesh Foreign Minister's visit to India in November 1996. The discussion, held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere, have covered all the major issues in the bilateral relations.

To further promote Indo-Bangladesh trade, the External Affairs Minister, while in Dhaka, announced that the Government would grant fourteen categories of exports from Bangladesh 50% tariff concessions across the board. It was also decided to expedite action on demarcation of the land boundary and exchange of enclaves. On the Chakma issue, in response to an invitation conveyed by India, the Bangladesh side has conveyed that High-powered delegation would visit Tripura to interact with the refugees and encourage them to return to their homes. The two sides have agreed to further strengthen cooperation in border management and to curb undersirable activities. A Joint Committee of Experts has been formed to look into the issue of sharing of Ganga Waters and both sides have reiterated their intention of arriving at an agreement on a fair and equitable sharing before the onset of the next dry season.

वस्त्र उद्योगों में आरक्षित सूची संबंधी समिति

53. **श्री राम जेठमलानी:** क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि वस्त्र उद्योग में आरक्षित सूची के संबंध में सलाह देने के लिये सरकार द्वारा एक 30 सदस्यीय समिति का गठन किया गया था, यदि हां, तो कब;

(ख) क्या समिति ने सरकार को अपनी रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत कर दी है, यदि हां, तो कब;

(ग) यदि हां, तो रिपोर्ट में क्या-क्या सुझाव दिए गए हैं; और

(घ) क्या सरकार ने समिति के सुझावों पर कार्रवाई करने का निर्णय किया है, यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

वस्त्र मंत्री (श्री आर.एल. जालप्पा): (क) जी हां। यह समिति अगस्त 1993 में गठित की गई थी।

(ख) इस समिति ने नवम्बर 1995 में अपनी रिपोर्ट सरकार को प्रस्तुत कर दी है।